

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/129,468

Examiner

Minh Trinh

Applicant(s)

PFEIFFER ET AL.

Art Unit

3729

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to substitute Brief filed on 4/09/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15 and 21-28, renumbered 1-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 8/04/1998 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

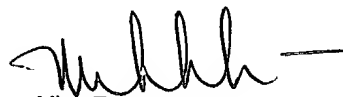
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Minh Trinh 7/28/04
Patent Examiner Group 3729

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-3, 21 and 27-28 are allowed on the basis of a number of arguments are presented in the substitute Appeal's Brief filed on 4/9/04 (see under the heading "Argument", pages 4-7). These arguments have been considered and are found to be persuasive. The examiner agreed that the prior art does not teach or suggest an assembly apparatus as recited in details in independent claims 1 and 27. In particular, the specific limitation of "a carousel base rotationally coupled to a frame and a coupling device to removable couple a carousel to the carousel base rotationally coupled to the frame" as recited in independent claims 1 and 27 are deemed to be patentable distinguished from the prior art of record.

Further, regarding claim 21, Applicant's arguments under the heading "Argument", page 7, paragraph II, filed on 4/9/04 have been considered and are persuasive. The examiner agreed that the prior art does not teach or suggest a means for intermittently stocking a carousel with a supply of component such as provide a removable carousel to intermittently restock component for assembly, under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph as set forth in claim 21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 3729

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Trinh whose telephone number is (703) 305-2887.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Minh Trinh', followed by a horizontal line.

Minh Trinh 7/28/04
Patent Examiner Group 3729

mt